Where the Action is

Every Officer in the Church Army has to grapple with the task of applying his or her vocation 'to do the work of an evangelist' to the particular situation in which God has called them to work. This will always differ according to not only the differing situations but the unique gifts and experiences that each person brings to their ministry.

Almost daily our Staff Officer Brian Mattinson receives news of successes in Ministry, stories of lessons learnt the hard way, and urgent requests for special prayer support. Probably nothing else reflects the rich diversity of ministry taking place in the Church Army than these letters.

Here is what some of our Officers have shared with us lately:

FROM CAPTAIN DAVID HINCHLIFFE (Industrial Chaplaincy with I.T.I.M. and Prison Chaplaincy at Parramatta)

"The work is a daily challenge to be Christ's person in the ordinary lives of men and women. At the beginning of April I took up extra work with I.C.I. Rural and Pharmaceutical at Villawood. So the chaplaincy load next month will be down to normal.

The weekly Bible Study at Parramatta prison (8 strong at the moment) is a power house for those who attend, despite the attacks of evil from without and the struggles within. A group "Prison Fellowship" of which I am a part, has been given permission to hold a 3 day seminar of Christian Teaching in Parramatta gaol on the 13-15th July. Prisoners from other gaols will be allowed to attend.

The prisoners and warders are very tense at the moment over the two murders and knifings and fear is evident. Pray that Our Lord will intervene and overrule."

FROM CAPTAIN GLEN SCOTT (Youth Director, Grafton Cathedral, N.S.W. and Manager of the Grafton Bookshop).

"I'm really starting to feel the Lord using me and allowing me to use the gifts he has given me. I must admit that I find my primary school scripture classes a bit difficult, however, my high school class is going great. Last term I had 7A, this term I asked to be given 7E - supposedly a tough mob - we've been having a great time together. I've also been very involved with the confirmation class (of 28), which also seems to be going very well. The youth fellowship is growing both spiritually and numerically. We've been using a series of studies from a book called "Experiencing Gods Attributes" put out by Navigators (which by the way I highly recommend). The growth that has taken place through these studies and the level of commitment to Christ that has come about has been a blessing to see. Just last week, we got to the point where I knew that all the members of the fellowship had made a commitment to Christ. Now we have 2 or 3 new people who are very "interested" and have started coming along.

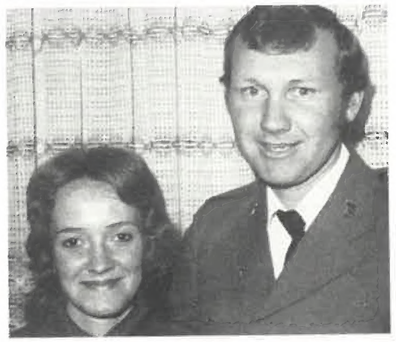
Until now, my emphasis with the youth has been one of bringing them to commitment and growth. Now, I believe the emphasis is changing to more of an evangelistic, outreaching one. We're working up to a major outreach, hopefully in the first weekend in August."

FROM SISTER LYN BULLARD (Parish Evangelist and Youth Director in Team Ministry, Coff's Harbour. N.S.W.)

"Youth work is such a joy at the moment when I see the kids doing pastoral care visiting to youth. We've devised our own ministry leaflet and have been going out in teams visiting. They really seem to be growing even through adverse conditions, e.g. 3 kids have lost their jobs all because they turned 18. Other set backs have only caused growth so far.

Up to date 15 G.F.S.girls have given their life to Jesus and one boy in the fellowship group made a commitment to Jesus 3 weeks ago. Due to good ministry of a former assistant priest, most of the kids have accepted Christ which really helps with the new ones."

CAPTAIN TREVOR, AND SHONA BROOKS (Parish Evangelism - Portland Area of Lithgow Parish, N.S.W).



"There have been a few suicides in the area of late. All have been young men. One of these men lived nearby. Last Year his mother was murdered, his father then killed himself a few months later. The boy was only 18 years of age a week before he killed himself. He tried to cut his wrist with a razor blade. During that week I went and spoke to him several times. When I first moved to Cullen I met the young boy at the hotel, there I presented the Gospel to the boy as the only way for him. Please pray for this boy's family that Christ may begin to repair their lives."

FROM CAPTAIN DAVID WOODYARD (Parish Evangelist and Youth Director, St.Mary's Morwell, Victoria).

"Last week was pretty hectic, we had four funerals in seven days. Bereavement counselling was a new experience for me and one from which I learned a lot about peoples' reactions to the loss of a loved one. The training I received in College was a great help to me in this situation.

Sunday School resumes next Sunday (31st May) after the holidays. During the break I have been preparing a Confirmation Course for Grade Six children to be used over the next Sixteen weeks".

FROM CAPTAIN MARK ROGERS (Parish Evangelist, St.Mary's, Redcliffe.Qld).

"All goes well! New avenues for the gospel are being opened and the annointing of the Spirit has been abundantly poured out on me.

Visitation: This has been advancing in a slow but steady fashion. Avenues into the homes have been provided by children at school. When some parents discover that I'm their child's R.I. teacher, a lot of defences are dropped.

The Coffee House work is becoming quite well known and appreciated. There are a faithful few who are supporting the work. We have had some very favourable conversations with kids in the lighthouse, and on top of this prior to the Coffee House meaningful discussions have been had been had as I've handed out publicity leaflets for the lighthouse to the kids. We

Sent to Preach

For many years there were a number of Church Army Mission Vans working in several States, making the ministry of Church Army Missioners readily available to isolated rural and outback parishes. Times have changed but the need remains. The nearest modern equivalent to this special form of ministry would be the Church Army's Aerial Ministry and the work of Kevin Cullen our "Flying Evangelist".

Several years ago a supporter made available a Cessna 172 Skyhawk (VH.IXK). Stepping out in faith Church Army arranged for Kevin to spend half of his available time in direct evangelistic ministry.

The keen demand for missions and other forms of ministry, the increasing giving and prayer support specifically for this work, and above all the evidence of hundreds of peoples' lives being touched by God in and through this ministry has confirmed our step of faith.

When John Cowland established Church Army in the thirties, his young lay evangelists impressed everyone with their 'passion for souls' and their total commitment to effective communication of the Gospel.

Kevin's comments below would reflect a definite continuation of that 'singleness of purpose' today:

"For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord..."
2 Corinthians 4:5

The Church Army Aerial Ministry is now into its fourth year as a part-time operation. After being based in Lismore on the north coast of N.S.W. for two years, the ministry was subsequently moved to Sydney at the beginning of 1980 and has continued there.

Total missions conducted by the ministry over the past thirty months have numbered fourteen, with five more planned during the remainder of this year.

As missioner/pilot of the aerial ministry, I am greatly encouraged at the way in which this new work has been received by the Anglican Church of Australia. In fact the only places not touched by the ministry thus far are the Northern Territory and Western Australia; 1982 may see a change in that.

FROM CAPTAIN JOHN AND DIANNE SYMONS (B.C.A. Missioner, Middlemount, Qld.)

"The town is growing very quick and apart from the store, post office and bank we now have a green grocer, newsagent, butcher and hairdresser. The bank is now open every day at normal hours and we also have a library and nursery. Three weeks ago a full time government run Pre-school opened and it has two sessions a day, 9.00am to 12.00pm and 12.00pm to 3.00pm.

At the same time, the town is gradually being handed over to the Broadsound Shire Council. On 30th April the power supply was handed over to Capricorn Electricity Board. The site set aside for the shopping complex, Community Centre, Police and Fire Stations and Telecom is a hive of activity and so is the Swimming Centre for this coming season.

The Communion Services at 'May Downs' and 'Dallareen' Stations continue with wonderful afternoons of fellowship with the people of the properties.

Our evening Service of 7.30 p.m., although not growing in numbers, is still continuing. As of the second week in July this service will become a Communion Service. On the 17th May last, we commenced Sunday School at 9.30 a.m. at the Middlemount State School. This is run by Dianne and at present she has twenty four children on the roll. I ask you to pray for her and for someone to assist with this task.

At the same time as Sunday School, I hold Morning Prayer in an adjoining room. Some of the people have transferred from the Evening Service to come in the morning. Morning Prayer is very informal, however it is a wonderful time of fellowship.

Religious Education in the schools is going very well as is the Thursday afternoon childrens' group. I also take a group of seven children for Confirmation class on Monday afternoon at 3.45 p.m. for an hour. I ask that you pray for them as they prepare and for myself as I help prepare them.

Visiting throughout the town also is very eye-opening as well as rewarding. Some people in this mining town are not without their problems. Praise God for being able to listen as well as contribute, sometimes as late as 1.00 a.m. of a night.

It is very exciting being part of Middlemount, watching it grow, seeing the people come in, houses springing up in a short time and all through it seeing the hand of God guiding.

I praise God for His choice of partner in Dianne, for she too listens and contributes, picking up things that only women can pick up in conversations.

I ask you to pray for Dianne for, since we have come here, she has gone to work in the town office of Capcoal Construction. This has put an extra load on her although the boys are very good in helping. Aaron is being looked after by a wonderful lady who thinks he is just terrific.

Our deepest gratitude goes to our link parishes who donated Australian Prayer Books to Middlemount. The people here are most grateful. We thank you all for your prayer support over the past months and look forward to our union with Christ in the coming months.

We would especially ask you to pray for the miners as they commence coming to town. That God will send Christian miners amongst them to help with the task of the Kingdom in this area."

THE CHURCH ARMY IN AUSTRALIA

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THE WORLD WIDE CHURCH ARMY

The Church Army was founded in England in 1882, by Prebendary Wilson Carlile. It is a lay Society of men and women Evangelists of the Anglican Communion. Other autonomous Societies were founded in the U.S.A. in 1927, Canada, 1928, Australia 1934, New Zealand 1935, Eastern Africa 1962, Jamaica 1969. Officers from some of these Societies are also at work in Germany, South America, South Africa, Botswana and West Pakistan.

OUR COVER PICTURE

A population change is taking place in rural areas of both Queensland and Western Australia. This is being caused by the development of the rich mineral deposits in those areas. In 1980 the Diocese of Rockhampton, as a part of its strategy of being ready to minister to a changed situation as it occurs, invited both the Bush Church Aid Society and the Church Army to share with it in a combined ministry to both the new mining towns and the rural areas effected by the growth and development. The Church Army has provided Captain John Symons to work as a Bush Church Aid Missioner representing the Diocese of Rockhampton in the Middlemount area where a brand new mining development is under way. On page eight of this edition of the 'Pioneer' John shares with us something of both the joys and strains of this new ministry - Please pray for John and Dianne.

THINK ABOUT A BOOK

Enclosed with this edition of the Pioneer is a Reader's Guide about the recent Christian books available from Bookhouse Aust. Ltd. and presently available through the Church Army Bookshop at Newcastle. The price of each book is given below. If you would like to order any of these titles please use the order form below or ring the Bookshop on (049) 23160. Please allow aprox. ten per cent extra for packing and postage.

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